

LONDON- WEST MIDLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Volume 5 | Technical Appendices

CFA18 | Stoneleigh, Kenilworth and Burton Green
Baseline report (CH-001-018)
Cultural heritage

November 2013

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Department
for Transport

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1 Introduction

1.1 Structure of the cultural heritage appendices

1.1.1 The cultural heritage appendices for the Stoneleigh, Kenilworth and Burton Green CFA comprise:

- baseline reports (this appendix);
- a gazetteer of heritage assets (Appendix CH-002-018);
- impact assessment tables (Appendix CH-003-018); and
- survey reports (Appendix CH-004-018).

1.1.2 Maps referred to throughout the cultural heritage appendices are contained in the Volume 5 cultural heritage map book.

1.2 Content and scope

1.2.1 This baseline provides part of the evidence base, along with Appendices CH-002-018, Appendix CH-003-0018, and Appendix CH-004-0018, against which the assessment of assets that may be affected by the Proposed Scheme can be determined. It collates information about known and potential heritage assets from a variety of sources and presents a chronological description and discussion of the development of the study area, placing assets within their historical and archaeological context.

1.2.2 The baseline is structured as follows:

- Section 1 provides introductory material relating to the scope of the assessment, study area and key data sources;
- Section 2 provides background info on geology and topography;
- Section 3 provides a chronological description of the archaeological and historical development of the area;
- Section 4 provides an overview of the built heritage resource;
- Section 5 relates to a map regression;
- Section 6 provides a description of the historic landscape, including parks, gardens and important hedgerows;
- Section 7 describes the archaeological character of the route. This is closely related to Appendix CH-003-018;
- Section 8 provides an overview of archaeological understanding and potential;
- Section 9 provides conclusions; and
- Section 10 provides information sources.

1.3 Study area

- 1.3.1 The Stoneleigh, Kenilworth and Burton Green Community Forum Area (CFA) lies within North Warwickshire District and comprises parts of the civil parishes of Stoneleigh, Kenilworth and Berkswell.
- 1.3.2 All non-designated and designated assets within the Consolidated Construction Boundary (land required for construction) and within 500m of it have been detailed in this baseline assessment. In addition, designated heritage assets have been examined up to 2km either side of the land required for construction.
- 1.3.3 All identified assets are listed in Appendix CH-002-018 and shown on Maps CH-01-108 to CH-01-111 and CH-02-106 to CH-02-107 in Volume 5.

1.4 Data sources

- 1.4.1 Sources examined as part of this baseline assessment include published secondary sources, cartographic sources, historic environment record data for undesignated heritage assets and English Heritage national heritage list (NHL) data for designated assets. A full list of published sources can be found in Section 11 of this appendix.

1.5 Surveys undertaken

- 1.5.1 The following surveys were undertaken as part of the EIA process:
- Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) survey of the majority of the Proposed Scheme and land around it (see Appendix CH-004-018);
 - hyperspectral survey of the majority of the Proposed Scheme and land around it (see Appendix CH-004-018);
 - a programme of non-intrusive surveys including geophysical prospection (see Appendix CH-004-018); and
 - site reconnaissance field inspections to review the setting of historic assets and the character and form of the historic landscape.

2 Geology, topography and landform

- 2.1.1 The study area crosses what is generally accepted to be the two main historical sub divisions of this part of Warwickshire; Dunsmore and Arden. These two regions have differing geologies, soils and topographies which have subsequently been influenced by human habitation to create two contrasting environments.
- 2.1.2 Dunsmore, which reaches into the far south-east corner of the study area, is centred on an area of former heathland associated with a low plateau of glacial deposits. These deposits have led to the creation of thin soils which were worked-out in the prehistoric period, rapidly creating the heathlands which dominated the area until improvements in agriculture led to these areas being reclaimed for agriculture over the past two centuries. Similar to the Feldon area of Warwickshire to the south, this is predominantly a planned landscape of large fields and small villages although, unlike the Feldon, it also has extensive woodlands. The area is primarily agricultural with extensive pasture and arable fields, many established over former areas of common land and heath. These form a flat, open landscape. The study area is crossed by the narrow valley of the River Avon. This valley is mainly in-filled with alluvial deposits from past flooding episodes although isolated areas of un-alluviated gravel terrace also occur. The arable fields often extend up to the river although there are also some surviving sections of remnant flood meadows. Much of the region was cleared of woodland and settled in prehistory especially on the easily worked soils of the main plateau and along the fertile river valleys. The higher areas appear to have been worked to exhaustion as early as the Anglo-Saxon period. The productive land was densely settled by the later medieval period and farmed in two- and three-field systems. Depopulation of the area continued slowly through the later medieval period with the land enclosed in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 2.1.3 The Arden is a well-wooded farmland landscape covered with a pattern of small fields and dispersed isolated settlements. At the core of the area is a landscape of low rounded hills, steep scarps and small incised valleys. The section of the Arden crossed by the study area includes the River Avon and a small tributary known as the Finham Brook. These valleys have abundant tree and woodland cover, creating an enclosed landscape with sunken lanes and scattered farms and settlements. The medieval character of this landscape is emphasised by the presence of many moated sites and former deer parks. The area is located mostly on Mudstone formations which has created the rolling nature of the landscape which is cut by the river valleys. There are Arden Sandstone outcrops amongst this mudstone which form prominent escarpments. The soils are heavy and clay-based which, when cleared of woodland, led to the development of pasture and wood pasture agriculture. The woodlands were probably cleared after the Anglo-Saxon period. Many of the deer parks were established in the 12th and 14th centuries with emparkment continuing up to the 15th century. The remnants of many such parks survive to this day. This medieval parkland is particularly noticeable around Stoneleigh Abbey within the study area. The early woodland clearances led to small hedged enclosures creating a character of small irregular fields. This continued to characterise the area until widespread enclosure of the land in the 18th and 19th centuries led to the widespread removal of hedgerows.

3 Archaeological and historical background

3.1 Early prehistory

Palaeolithic 500,000-10,000BC

- 3.1.1 The Lower and Middle Palaeolithic of the West Midlands are generally poorly understood periods with a low level of material finds¹. This is likely to be due more to a lack of research in the area than a genuine absence of human activity over these periods. The West Midlands as a whole has been identified recently as being of particular importance in the Lower Palaeolithic as it is geographically positioned at the northern extreme of global Lower Palaeolithic settlement. The area would have been one of extreme environment for human occupation and any sites found, particularly dating to the pre-Anglian period, would be of international importance². A number of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic finds have been made across the West Midlands. However, it is likely that these findspots do not provide a reliable guide to settlement patterns across the region but are more likely to be the results of uneven fieldwork across the area³.
- 3.1.2 A Palaeolithic site of national and potentially international importance has been identified at Waverley Wood Farm Pit. Although the site is located c. 2.1km to the north-east of the land required for construction, the former Bytham River channel on which it is located runs across the study area following a band of Mercia Mudstone (OFCo41)⁴ (Shotton, et al., 1993). The study area crosses part of the route of the Bytham River to the north east of Cubbington. This river crossed southern Britain on a north-east to south-west axis in the Pleistocene period (c. 500,000 Before Present (BP)). This route is now partially followed by the River Avon. It is widely believed that the Bytham Valley was one of the main entry points for the first humans who inhabited the area. Lower and Middle Palaeolithic artefacts have been recovered along the Avon Valley in Warwickshire, although no in-situ flint working sites from the period have been identified. The Bytham appears to have been destroyed during the Anglian glaciation which commenced c. 480,000BP. There is very sparse evidence for human habitation in the area during the Middle Palaeolithic with humans apparently absent between c. 186,000 and c. 60,000BP. Isolated handaxe finds have been made in the gravel terraces of the Avon, dating from c. 60,000BP.
- 3.1.3 By using the recorded position of the Waverley Wood palaeochannel, the estimated course of the Bytham river system as a whole⁵ and by following the course of the mudstone bedrock into which the palaeochannel had been cut⁶, it is estimated that

¹ Garwood, P. (2011), The earlier prehistory of the West Midlands. In S. Watt, ed., The Archaeology of the West Midlands; A Framework for Research. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 9-99.

² Ibid.

³ Lang, A.T.O., and Buteux, S.T.E. (2007), Lost but not forgotten: the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic occupation of the West Midlands. In P. Garwood, ed., The Undiscovered Country; the earlier prehistory of the West Midlands. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 6-22.

⁴ Shotton, F.W., Keen D.H., Coope, C.R., Currant, A.P., Cibbard, P.L., Aalto, M., Peglar, S.M. and Robinson, J.E. (1993), The Middle Pleistocene deposits of Waverley Wood Pit, Warwickshire, England. Journal of Quaternary Science, 8, pp. 293-325.

⁵ Garwood 2011, 15.

⁶ Shotton et al., 1993.

the channel's projected course would cross the study area at some point between Leicester Lane in the north west and the B4453 to the south-east.

- 3.1.4 It is clear from current knowledge that human occupation of the region in the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic was discontinuous. Much of the colonisation and habitation appears to have been concentrated along river valleys and the gravel terraces of the Avon Valley. Despite the lack of Upper and Middle Palaeolithic finds in the region as a whole, the discovery of one in-situ site has the potential to transform understanding of these periods at a national level. The Waverley Wood finds are of both national and international significance in relation to questions concerning the chronology and extent of the earliest human occupation of northern Europe and further work on it is a clear priority. While the site itself lies outside the study area, there is potential for further finds, possibly within the land required for construction.
- 3.1.5 There is very little evidence of Upper Palaeolithic activity within the study area, but again this is likely to be the result of uneven study rather than a reflection of an absence of human activity. There are no identified Upper Palaeolithic assets in the CFA.

Mesolithic 8,000-4000BC

- 3.1.6 The Mesolithic period was characterised by rapid climate change following the end of the last glacial period with a rapid rise in temperatures, the rising of sea levels and afforestation across the region in the period 8000-4000BC. The evidence for the period consists almost entirely of lithic assemblages although there is some evidence for built structures within the region as a whole.
- 3.1.7 In the early Mesolithic period (8000-6500BC) subsistence appears to have been dominated by large game hunting. Rising sea levels led to the separation of Britain from mainland Europe with accompanying widespread afforestation. In the later Mesolithic (6500-4000BC) hunting practices reflected this process of afforestation with a move to the hunting of woodland game including red and roe deer as well as wild pig, along with an intensive exploitation of both woodland plant and marine resources.
- 3.1.8 Mesolithic finds densities are relatively low when compared to other parts of Britain. The recording of scatters of flint and other stone tools has not been accurate on the whole although more have been recorded in Warwickshire than in most other parts of the region. The excavation of Mesolithic sites in the region is rare and few have produced evidence for features or possible structures⁷. Sites appear to be focused on well-drained sites close to water sources, although this may be a biased impression created by fieldwalking projects that concentrate on ploughed fields in such areas. Alluvial deposition episodes may have hidden many sites located in river valleys and therefore Mesolithic activity may be far more widespread than previously assumed. There are no identified Mesolithic assets in the CFA.

⁷ Garwood, 2011.

Neolithic 4,000-2,400BC

- 3.1.9 Early Neolithic sites and finds are mostly concentrated on the edges of the region. Extensive work in the Avon valley has identified sites at Barford^{8, 9, 10}, Charlecote¹¹ and Wasperton¹²; all located more than 10km to the SW of the study area. Pollen analysis across the region has suggested that large-scale forest clearance began in the third millennium BC although hunter-gathering continued as a way of life in this period¹³.
- 3.1.10 Early Neolithic monuments are very rare in the region although a possible long barrow has been identified at Hampton-in-Arden c. 5km north-west of the study area. Possible mortuary enclosures have been identified at a number of sites in the south-west of Warwickshire, between 10 and 20km to the south-west of the study area. There are no obvious large groups of Early Neolithic funerary monuments and enclosures in the region such as those found in areas such as Wessex and Sussex¹⁴. Most of the material finds from the period have been recovered from isolated pits and from within alluvial and colluvial contexts. The flint collections recorded in the region, although suggestive of widespread occupation, have not been found in great density or in association with features such as pits. This would suggest that much of this occupation was short-term and temporary. This would also explain the low numbers of monuments in the area for this period. The monuments that do exist in conjunction with finds that suggest that more permanent settlement was located on the edges of the region and associated with cultural foci to the south, west and north. It is possible therefore that the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic transition in the region took place at a later date than in regions such as Wessex, making the West Midlands important in the study of this cross-over period.
- 3.1.11 The Middle Neolithic (3400-2800BC) and the Late Neolithic (2800-2100) see the introduction of new artefact categories, the appearance of new monument forms and the development of large ceremonial centres and landscapes. In the West Midlands the beginning of the Middle Neolithic was marked by widespread monument construction and the development of ceremonial centres.
- 3.1.12 Middle and Late Neolithic sites in the region are, like those of the Early Neolithic, concentrated around its margins. In the Avon valley there appears to be an intensification and expansion of settlement following the results of excavations at Barford¹⁵, Charlecote¹⁶, Wasperton¹⁷, King's Newham and Church Lawford^{18, 19}, 10-

⁸ Oswald, A. (1969), Excavations for the Avon/Severn Research Committee at Barford, Warwickshire. Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society. 83, pp. 1-64.

⁹ Loveday, R. (1989), The Barford ritual complex: further excavations 1972 and a regional perspective. In A. Gibson, ed., Midlands Prehistory, BAR: Oxford, pp. 51-84.

¹⁰ Woodward, A. (2007), Ceremonial landscapes and ritual deposits in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods. In: P. Garwood, ed., The Undiscovered Country: the early prehistory of the West Midlands. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp.182-93.

¹¹ Ford, W. J. (2003), The Neolithic complex at Charlecote, Warwickshire, Transactions of the Birmingham Warwickshire Archaeological Society. 107, pp. 1-39.

¹² Hughes, G., and Crawford, G. (1995), Excavations at Wasperton, Warwickshire: Part 1. Trans Birmingham Warwickshire Archaeological Soc. 99, pp. 9-47.

¹³ Garwood, 2011.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Oswald, 1969.

¹⁶ Ford, 2003.

¹⁷ Hughes and Crawford, 1995.

¹⁸ Palmer, S.C. (1999), Archaeological excavations in the Arrow valley, Warwickshire. Transactions of the Birmingham Warwickshire Archaeological Society. 103, pp 211-216.

¹⁹ Palmer, S.C. (2007), Recent work on the Neolithic and Bronze Age in Warwickshire. In: P. Garwood, ed., The Undiscovered Country; the earlier prehistory of the West Midlands. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 123-33, 13.

15km to the south west of the study area. The deforestation of the Avon valley appears to continue gradually through the 3rd millennium BC.

- 3.1.13 The only significant concentration of Middle and Late Neolithic monuments close to the study area is to be found in the Avon valley at Wasperton, Charlecote and Barford, c. 10km to the south-west. This whole area appears to form a ceremonial landscape containing field monuments and long mounds. There is also some limited evidence for settlement, although as a whole the West Midlands, like the rest of Britain, evidence of any kind from this period is very rare and mostly represented by pits, most of which appear to have been backfilled with 'special' deposits as opposed to domestic waste. This lack of evidence may be due to the insubstantial nature of settlements in this period, which do not seem to have been in use for any length of time and which have been vulnerable to destruction by ploughing and later erosion. Within and immediately around the study area, the Middle and Late Neolithic is represented mainly by lithic scatters which appear to represent widespread occupation of generally low intensity. There are no identified Neolithic assets in the CFA.

3.2 Later prehistory

Bronze Age 2,400-700BC

- 3.2.1 The Early Bronze Age (2400-1500BC) is represented in the archaeological record predominantly by large numbers of round barrows and burials as well as artefacts such as food vessels and collared urns along with metal artefacts such as flanged axes and riveted daggers. The clustering of round barrows in large groups appears to signify the development of ceremonial centres. Settlement sites are still a rarity in the region.
- 3.2.2 In the West Midlands the transition from Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age is reasonably well defined²⁰. Round barrow construction increased rapidly from c. 1900BC with dense concentrations around the edge of the region and with evidence for wider woodland clearance and agriculture.
- 3.2.3 Early Bronze Age round barrows are abundant in the West Midlands with over 900 round barrows and ring ditches recorded, approximately half of these having a surviving mound. There are large concentrations of barrows in the Avon valley. Most were constructed between 2100BC and 1500BC, although some may be slightly earlier or later. The spatial distribution of these monuments shows them to be closely related to the geographical and historical incidence of farming. Most surviving earthen mounds are found in upland areas and pasture lands, while the ring ditch sites are found in arable areas where barrows rarely survive as standing monuments. This destruction has accelerated since the expansion of arable farm practices in the later 17th century and intensified with the introduction of mechanised farming. A number of barrows may have also been lost during urbanisation in the 19th and 20th centuries. Mounds also appear to have been hidden by alluviation and lost within the patches of woodland.
- 3.2.4 Sixty-four barrows have been excavated in the region, providing information on their construction, funerary practices, along with artefactual and chronological evidence. However, these excavations have so far failed to build a useful body of dating

²⁰ Garwood, 2011.

evidence with very few radiocarbon dates obtained from relevant contexts. The barrows tend to be arranged in clusters, sometimes up to 20-30 but not in the linear barrow cemeteries as is common practice in Wessex. These barrow groups may have been focal points in a ceremonial landscape that served an area of scattered settlements. Burials are a mixture of secondary inhumations within barrows and those within pits. Primary burials beneath round mounds are relatively rare and grave goods are often poor or absent altogether.

- 3.2.5 There is virtually no evidence for Early Bronze Age settlements in the West Midlands and this is consistent with the pattern found across Britain in this period. Many may have been located close to rivers and subsequently destroyed by fluvial activity. Generally there seems to be a lack of 'domestic' pottery such as biconical urns and collared urns at this time. Surface artefact collection does not add to our knowledge of settlement patterns except in terms of overall distribution and density of activity at a regional level. Overall settlement activity appears to be concentrated around the margins of the area, with the central part of the West Midlands seemingly under developed and sparsely populated.
- 3.2.6 Middle to Late Bronze Age finds are rare in the region with few well-dated ceramic sequences²¹. This has led to an over reliance on typologies from neighbouring areas which may not be wholly accurate for the West Midlands. Sites from this period are often funerary monuments, few of which have been excavated in the modern era. These are mainly barrow sites, with some open cemeteries. Settlement sites are very rare but when found have been extensive and unenclosed. Burnt mounds are a more common feature of the area, perhaps reflecting early exploitation of the region's forests for charcoal making and metal working.
- 3.2.7 Although there are no identified Bronze Age assets in the CFA, the floodplain of the Avon Valley along with upland areas appears to have been cleared of woodland in the Later Bronze Age. This clearance led to an early exploitation of the land for agriculture which then appeared to have led to the development of the extensive heathland which dominated much of Warwickshire up to the 18th century.

Iron Age (700BC-AD43)

- 3.2.8 In the Iron Age, settlement evidence in the region becomes more visible with enclosures identified from aerial photographs a particularly common feature. These enclosures are often associated with round houses. These settlements appear to be fairly short-lived with little internal development. Farming became increased at this time with some extensive field systems recorded. In places these systems are enclosed by large landscape features such as the linear banks found at Hob Ditch causeway in Solihull in Warwickshire. Extensive settlement sites have been found in Warwickshire on less well-drained soils than is common in the south of England²². At the same time funerary practices are less commonly recorded. Burial evidence is limited compared to that for the later Bronze Age. Some individual burials have been recorded in Warwickshire, although cemeteries have not been found as yet.

²¹ Hurst, D. (2011), Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age: a research assessment overview and agenda. In: S. Watt, ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands; A Framework for Research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 101-26.

²² Palmer in prep, cited in Hurst, 2011.

- 3.2.9 There are no known Iron Age sites in the study area but a scatter of coins known as staters, dating from this period has been recorded around Crackley Wood (STN053), which is crossed by the proposed development. Although this is only a scatter of material and not from a feature or sealed context, it is suggestive of Iron Age activity very close to the route.

3.3 Romano-British AD43-410

- 3.3.1 The West Midlands sits on the nominal boundary between the extensively settled south of Britain in the south and east of the region and the militarised north in the north and west of the West Midlands. The Avon Valley for example appears to have been culturally more akin to southern and eastern Britain with more extensive civilian settlements and fewer military sites. The region is rich in minerals as well as agricultural land and this led to the area being extensively exploited in the Roman period. Most of this exploitation appears to be located in the south and west of the region and away from the study area itself.
- 3.3.2 The study area appears to contain elements of both of the main Roman areas that divide the region. The north and west appears to maintain a way of life very similar in density and nature to that of the later prehistoric periods which changes little with the collapse of Roman rule and the establishment of early medieval England while the south and east which has been 'Romanised' to a far greater extent sees the catastrophic changes that are well documented in the south and east of England.
- 3.3.3 There is considerable evidence of Romano-British activity in the area, particularly around Finham Brook. A Romano-British settlement has been identified at Crewe Farm (STN031) just to the south of Kenilworth Golf Course and within the land required for construction. A scatter of Roman finds has been recorded 150 metres to the north of Crackley Wood directly on the centre line of the route. To the south lies the Fosse Way, an important Roman road and there are also known Roman roads to the east and west.
- 3.3.4 An enclosure or platform, visible as an earthwork was recorded during fieldwork at Glasshouse Wood (STN034), 270 metres to the south-west of the land required for construction. The remains of a Roman building along with a cremation burial suggest, and an associated field system that this was the site of a Romano-British settlement. Further surface finds including pottery and tile fragments have been found in the north-east of the woods. The field system (STN034) consists of banks, ditches and lynchets which all survive as upstanding earthworks within Glasshouse Wood. A possible Romano-British settlement has been identified to the west of Thomas de Pipes Mill (STN108), 395 metres to the north-east of the land required for construction. Evidence for a Roman building (STN037) has also been identified within Kenilworth Golf Course itself, 235 metres to the north of the land required for construction.

3.4 Early medieval AD410-1066

- 3.4.1 New settlements and settlement patterns developed across the region in this period, along with the spread of Christianity and the founding of churches and the

establishment of many of the region's towns²³. Much of this change is not represented in the archaeological record but has been demonstrated from documentary research. The kingdom of Greater Mercia was established in the region while on a smaller scale the fragmented settlement pattern that had been established in the prehistoric period and continued through the Roman era was developed into the manorial system that formed the basis of medieval agrarian society.

- 3.4.2 Whether these social changes reflect major changes in the population of the region has yet to be established. There is evidence both for the incursion of Germanic people and for the continuation of population which is largely evident in the limited burial evidence found in Warwickshire.
- 3.4.3 Archaeological evidence for early medieval settlement in the region is extremely limited. The ceramic record is also difficult to follow as pottery largely disappears from the archaeological record, only re-appearing in the mid Anglo-Saxon period. What does appear to be the case however is that the scattered settlement characteristic of the later prehistoric and Roman periods continues into this era with nucleation into the villages typical of the later medieval period, only occurring late into the period, possibly under royal or ecclesiastical influences. Warwickshire also contains some evidence for high status timber buildings sometimes interpreted as palaces, such as the sites at Hatton Rock and Long Itchington which date from the 8th century.
- 3.4.4 The development of new towns during the period seems to have been driven partly by trade and partly by the need to defend the area against Danish and Welsh incursions. Warwick for example was fortified in AD914 by Aethelflaed and by the 11th century had a population of c. 1500. Other defended settlements or 'Burghs' were also established and remained well populated into the 11th century. Trade was also a key factor in town development with Mercia's authority extending as far as the River Thames by the 8th century. The extensive mineral wealth of the region also led to an expansion of trade.
- 3.4.5 The Roman road system appears to have been preserved and used, along with the waterways as the main communication routes through the area.

3.5 Medieval AD1066-1540

- 3.5.1 The study area is rich in medieval settlements and field systems, reflecting the intensity of medieval activity in the area as a whole. There was a steady growth in population in the later medieval period (AD1055-AD1540), with an expansion of settlements, the development of the manorial system and the growth in power of the church²⁴ together with the attendant development of the parishes (Stoneleigh, Kenilworth and Berkswell) which are within the study area. These developments are most clearly seen within the study area in the development of Stoneleigh Abbey an important house which controlled a large estate (STNo12) with granges, mills and fishponds. There are also moated manorial sites across the area. Warwickshire has been instrumental in the development of medieval rural studies. John Rous recorded the desertion of villages in the 15th century while William Dugdale produced the first

²³ Hooke, D. (2011), The Post-Roman and the early medieval periods in the West Midlands: a potential archaeological agenda. In: S. Watt, ed., The Archaeology of the West Midlands; A Framework for Research. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 149-72.

²⁴ Hunt, 2011.

county distribution map of deserted medieval settlements in 1656. In more recent studies in the 1960s^{25, 26, 27}, patterns of nucleated and dispersed settlement have been identified across the region with the former located in intensively settled open landscapes and the latter more associated with woodland landscapes. This division is often represented in Warwickshire in the distinction between the Arden and Feldon regions of the county, although in reality the divisions between the two are far less obvious. Studies within the county have been concentrated mainly on the Feldon with a number of deserted medieval settlements excavated, so that further study of the Arden is now seen as a local priority.

- 3.5.2 Three deserted medieval settlements have been identified within the study area. The site at Stareton consists of a number of raised house platforms (STNo11) while a series of linear cropmarks are located 240 metres to the north-east of the land required for construction. A second deserted settlement has been identified at Hurst (STNo62) which extends across the land required for construction and partially across the proposed route. A large settlement at Millburn (STNo47) survives as low earthworks.
- 3.5.3 The study area crosses a rural landscape and therefore, there are a number of medieval sites relating to the nature of medieval land use as well as isolated and nucleated settlements. A total of 17 plots of ridge and furrow earthworks have been recorded across the study area (STN, 011, 044, 057, 060, 062, 064, 066, 072, 077, 086, 089, 092, 093, 094, 095, 102). Of these, eight plots (STNo57, 060, 062, 064, 066, 072, 077, 086), are located within the land required for construction.
- 3.5.4 Four sites of medieval mills which also served Stoneleigh Abbey have been recorded within the study area. Although these no longer survive as standing buildings they may partially survive as sub-surface deposits and features. The site of the former Grange Mill (STNo19) which once served Stoneleigh Abbey is located 280 metres to the south west of the land required for construction, while a second watermill (STNo55) close to Cryfield Grange is located partially within the land required for construction. A probable mill site is found with associated ponds and leats to the south of Stoneleigh Park (STNo11) 210 metres north east of the land required for construction, while a possible windmill site has been identified at Stareton (STNo19), 175 metres to the north east of the land required for construction.
- 3.5.5 Stare Bridge (STNo13), which crosses the River Avon at SP32950 71430, dates from the 15th century and is a scheduled monument. The bridge is located on the eastern edge of the land required for construction. The bridge is of red sandstone and is 3.5 metres wide with three arches with a further five covering an area of possible floodwaters. On the east side (upstream) the southern three large cutwaters are carried up to form refuges. The remaining five cutwaters on the east side have all been lowered to the level of the carriageway and the parapet rebuilt straight. The five arches at the southern end are pointed of two square orders, the next two are segmental, and the remaining two are pointed. The west side of the bridge has no cutwaters and all the outer arches have been rebuilt with buttresses of varying sizes

²⁵ Roberts, B.K. (1965), Moated sites in midland England. Transactions & Proceedings of the Birmingham Archaeological Society, 80, pp.26-37.

²⁶ Roberts, B.K. (1968), A Study of the Medieval Colonisation of the Forest of Arden. Warwickshire Agricultural History Review, 16 (2), pp.101-113.

²⁷ Thorpe, H. (1965), The Lord and the Landscape, Illustrated through the Changing fortunes of a Warwickshire Parish, Wormleighton. Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society, 80, pp.38-77.

added on each side of them. The bridge is currently not open to vehicles; it has been by-passed by a modern concrete structure to the east which now carries Stoneleigh Road across the River Avon. Stoneleigh Abbey (STNo12) was founded by the Cistercian order in 1155 on the banks of the River Avon and immediately to the south-west of the current site of the National Agricultural Centre. The Abbey itself and its grange farm are located immediately to the south-west of the study area; however, a number of sites which served the abbey are located within it.

- 3.5.6 The proximity of the former Stoneleigh Abbey to the study area means that the area is populated by a number of medieval sites which were once part or served the abbey complex. Four grange farms spread in the study area supplied food to the abbey. These are Milburn Grange (STNo45) which is located on the south-west edge of the land required for construction with earthworks extending to the north-west. These earthworks encroach into the land required for construction. Cryfield Grange (STNo54) is located 60 metres to the north-east of the land required for construction and Bockendon Grange (STNo66) 260 metres to the north-east of the land required for construction. This grange also has three surviving sections of moat. The settlement at Cryfield Grange (STNo55) is located 210 metres to the north-east of the land required for construction.
- 3.5.7 Two sites of former fish ponds, which are also part of the Stoneleigh Abbey complex, are located within the study area (STNo19). These are positioned 235 metres to the south of the land required for construction at a further group 250 metres to the north-west of these. (STNo69).
- 3.5.8 Three other medieval earthworks in the study area have also been identified. The site of a possible early castle (STNo30) is located 700 metres north-east of Glasshouse Wood and partially within the land required for construction. Earth banks have been recorded within Crackley Wood (STNo52) which is crossed by the route itself. A series of possible house platforms (STNo86) have been identified by LiDAR survey at the far north-west end of the CFA. These are crossed by the proposed route.
- 3.5.9 A cropmark site consisting of an ovoid enclosure and a series of associated linear features (STNo78) has been identified immediately to the north of Burton Green Farm c. 40m to the south of the land required for construction. These cropmarks were identified from aerial photographs held by the NMR National Aerial Photography Library in Swindon. From the shape and location of these cropmarks it seems likely that they are associated with a former stock enclosure and field system that is similar to other medieval sites found across the region. Kings Wood (STNo32) which is crossed by the proposed route for a distance of c. 1.2km is believed to be of medieval origin.
- 3.5.10 The medieval period also saw the beginning of industries both in the towns and in the countryside. Pottery, tile and brick manufacture was a feature of the area although actual sites have been hard to find and few have been excavated. Known quarry sites too are rare for this period.

3.6 Post-medieval AD1450-1901

- 3.6.1 The post-medieval period (AD1540-1901) began with the Reformation and the consequent break-up of the monastic estates and their transfer to secular ownership.

This particularly affected significant parts of this CFA, where monastic land ownership had been dominant for many centuries. The Stoneleigh estate with its great house, granges and mills etc continued to function under new ownership although gradually parts of the former estate broke away. The shrunken medieval settlement at Hurst continued into the post-medieval period (STNo62). The expansion of trade across Britain and to the expanding overseas empire had a profound impact on the region with the expansion of existing extractive industries²⁸. From the late 18th century onwards the Industrial Revolution which led to the rapid expansion of the region's towns, and the creation of canal and railway networks. The Kenilworth and Berkswell Branch Railway follows the northernmost 6km of the study area (STN105). Constructed in the mid-19th century, the earthworks associated with the cuttings and embankments are still extant. As a whole, the Industrial Revolution appeared to have little impact upon the study area which remained largely agricultural in character.

- 3.6.2 Light industry is represented by the site of a former watermill which is located to the north of Dale House (STNo42) where a series of cropmarks have also been identified which may be associated with water management channels.
- 3.6.3 Historic mapping includes a series of 17th and 18th century estate maps, parish tithe maps produced in the first half of the 19th century and enclosure maps from the early 19th century. In general these show the same enclosed field systems as can be seen today, although predating later 19th and 20th century urbanisation. The historic maps also illustrate the extent of hedgerow removal during this period with the enlarging of fields, particularly for arable use. Within the study area agricultural land and the heathland was enclosed during the 18th and 19th centuries. Taking advantage of the sparsely populated area, large sections of open heath and pasture were incorporated into large private estates divided up into regular or geometric fields divided by hawthorn edges and oaks. Formally marginal land such as heaths was reclaimed and reused for arable agriculture, while the ancient woodlands were managed more closely and expanded to serve the industrial expansion.
- 3.6.4 The expansion of Coventry in this period also saw the encroachment of suburbs into the north eastern edges of the study area. Coal exploitation, influenced by the location of the canals, began to develop in the 19th century. Mining villages appeared across the Arden which in turn attracted coal-powered industries. Coking and smelting industries developed, as well as power stations by the end of the 19th century. Birmingham expanded rapidly from its medieval core with a ring of suburbs developing after the construction of the railway.
- 3.6.5 The historic landscape character of Stoneleigh parish is complex. Most prominent within the landscape of the parish is Stoneleigh Park (STNo12) which is crossed by the land required for construction. It is unknown if the deer park part of the estate was created before or after the Dissolution in the 1530s. However, by the time of the 1597 estate map, the area to the north and west of the medieval abbey had been transformed into a deer park. Not long after, in 1616, the then owner, Thomas Leigh, was given licence to empark 700 acres (283 Ha) and his son was licensed to empark an

²⁸ Belford, P. (2011), *The archaeology of everything – grappling with post-medieval, industrial and contemporary archaeology*. In: S. Watt, ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands; A Framework for Research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 211-236.

additional 80 acres (c32 Ha) in 1640 Hunting, and not only of deer, was clearly important within the Stoneleigh landscape²⁹.

- 3.6.6 Edward, the 3rd Lord Leigh, began massive extensions to the property in 1711. In the early 1800s the then Lord Leigh commissioned Humphrey Repton to design new gardens with additional planting taking place throughout the estate³⁰. Although the formal gardens remain as a feature of the manor house and a number of other garden features survive, the overall legibility of the original demesne lands of Stoneleigh Abbey has been severely compromised by the mid-20th century development of the National Agricultural Centre (which is crossed by the land required for construction), effectively bisecting the Stoneleigh Abbey and Park grounds. The historic landscape of the Park is also obscured by its re-design into its current state as a golf course.
- 3.6.7 Numerous quarries, marl pits, coal pits, and brick kilns are scattered through the study area, attesting to the importance of the area in supplying the raw materials needed for the Industrial Revolution. Some of the gravel pits were noted on maps as early as 1597, but others are considerably more recent, not appearing until 19th century OS maps.
- 3.6.8 The study area crosses the far north-east corner of Kenilworth Parish which by the OS map of 1887 is also characterised by open fields that date from the parliamentary enclosures of the early 19th century. The small section of the parish crossed by the study area contains no other post-medieval development.
- 3.6.9 Berkswell parish at the far north-west end of the study area is shown to be covered by a dense pattern of enclosed fields in the late 19th century (OS 1:2500 map of 1888). This enclosure appears to date from the late 18th and early 19th century. The linear settlement of Burton Green is established at the south east end of the parish, initially as a scatter of large houses along the Kenilworth to Coventry Road.

3.7 20th Century/ modern AD1901-present

- 3.7.1 The 20th century saw the continued rapid expansion of industrial centres such as Birmingham and Coventry as well as smaller settlements such as Kenilworth. The growing population of the region, combined with the development of commuting from suburbs and villages, also saw a rapid rise in the populations of the small nucleated settlements across the study area with new housing estates constructed around the fringes of Burton Green.
- 3.7.2 The landscape across the parishes of Stoneleigh, Kenilworth and Berkswell retained some of its post-medieval enclosed character through the 20th and into the 21st century. Arable cultivation was dominant, particularly following changes to governmental agricultural policy at the onset of the Second World War which encouraged a rapid expansion of cereal cropping. During this period was for fields to be expanded in size with the removal of hedgerows and the 'thinning out' of the post-medieval landscape, which while retaining its framework, has resulted in a less intensive pattern.

²⁹ VCH (1951), Parishes: Stoneleigh, In A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 6: Knightlow hundred, pp. 229-240.

³⁰ Ibid.

- 3.7.3 The ancient managed woodland at Stoneleigh Park, Echill's Wood and Crackley Wood continued to be curated through the 20th and into the 21st century. Modern infrastructure appeared in the 20th century within the study area in the form of a reservoir constructed at Ticknell Spinney to the south-east of Stareton as well as an electrical substation located 350m to the north-west of Burton Green. The National Agricultural Centre was constructed at Stoneleigh in the mid-20th century. This was located at Stoneleigh partially for its geographical location close to the centre of England, but also as a reflection of the strong agricultural traditions of the area.

4 Built heritage

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section provides baseline information relating to built heritage assets within the land required for construction, 500m study area and wider 2km study area. The section provides the following information:

- A broad overview of the character and form of the settlement pattern and key assets within the CFA;
- detailed descriptions of all built heritage assets wholly or partially within the land required for construction; and
- detailed descriptions of key designated assets within the 500m study area.

4.1.2 Information on designated assets within the 2km study area, but outside of the 500m study area, can be found in the Gazetteer in Appendix CH-004-018 as can information on undesignated assets within the 500m study area.

4.2 Overview of settlement character and key assets

4.2.1 Within the study area, the historic landscape of the CFA is mixed, in the far south of the CFA it is dominated by the wider landscape of the great Stoneleigh estate along the banks of the Sowe. The estate has all the building types of an ancient and high status land unit, with numerous estate cottages, farms and granges, kennels, garden buildings and bridges. Many are post-medieval in origin, although a few contain historic cores which may date back to monastic ownership. Many dwellings which are now in private hands once belonged to the estate and were part of the wider estate landscape. Although the Stoneleigh estate was dominant for centuries today it is less easy to perceive as a discrete entity.

4.2.2 Stareton is a typical estate settlement with a number of farms and cottages built along a road. Earthworks indicate a very long history of occupation on this site although the earliest buildings which survive are probably 17th (or possibly even 16th) century in origin.

4.2.3 Stoneleigh itself is a more complicated settlement with a core on the west bank of the Avon, which is crossed by a fine ancient bridge. The historic elements of the village are dispersed with concentrations of early buildings along the Birmingham Road, Vicarage Road and Church Lane. There is a village centre with a small irregular green surrounded by historic buildings. A number of early buildings (16th or 17th century cruck-framed houses) are rather detached from the main core and are set in large plots (many later sub-divided). The church lies to the south of the main village on a flat area above the Sowe, although there are a number of post-medieval buildings to the north and east of the church. Earthworks to the west may indicate this part of Stoneleigh was once larger.

4.2.4 To the west the settlement pattern was historically more dispersed and centred on large farmsteads, many of which survive. The largely modern suburbs of Coventry and Kenilworth encroach on the north and south of the route and have absorbed small, earlier settlements. Many of the encroachments are planned developments with large

areas of 1960s housing estates, Edwardian infill and speculative development and in the Kenilworth Road area of Coventry, an area of large detached houses, dating from the 1920s to the present day.

4.2.5 To the north-west the next settlement is Burton Green, which consists almost entirely of 20th century houses with gardens along and around Cromwell Lane but incorporating a few earlier (formerly isolated) properties.

4.2.6 The settlement pattern in this area is typical of this part of the Midlands and reflects the very long running agrarian and rural nature of the landscape and the domination of a great estate. Small villages with cottages strung out along roads were built for labourers and farmers. Stoneleigh itself is in a more unusual location of a sloping hill in the bed of a river, with an almost detached church. The presence of nearby industrial towns certainly changed the settlement pattern in the area but this happened surprisingly late and was facilitated by the advent of the motor car in the 20th century.

Built Heritage assets within the land required for construction

4.2.7 Built heritage assets within the land required for construction include a number of designated and non-designated structures, ranging from canal structures to agricultural buildings.

East Lodge (STNo15)

4.2.8 East Lodge (STNo15) is an early 19th century sandstone ashlar park lodge marking the junction between the Stoneleigh Road and the approach to the abbey from the east. The reddish brown stone ironstone is very similar to that used in the main buildings of the abbey and must have come from a local quarry. The lodge is not marked on the OS 1 inch map from 1834, although it had been constructed by this date, suggesting that this may have been a subsidiary approach and lodge.

4.2.9 It has a very similar Neo-Tudor design to the nearby Mary Lodge with a cross-shaped plan with central gabled cross-wing, a central stack and a steeply pitched plain tile roof. It is single-storey with an attic in the slightly projecting gabled cross-wing, a square headed stone mullion/transom, three-light casement and above a similar window but of two lights, both with diamond panes and drip moulds. The lodge is surrounded by garden planting, including a number of high hedges and mature trees and is just outside of the main entrance to the National Agricultural Centre. Nearby are a number of modern buildings and structures including houses, walls and fences all late 20th century in origin.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

4.2.10 The historic setting of the lodge was as part of the wider estate of the abbey. The lodge was sited near a [now lost] gate and would have been used as an estate cottage and would have controlled access to this rear entrance to the estate. Access was across fields to the west and beyond the parkland nearer the main house. Little now remains of this setting, which has been changed by the addition of modern buildings and the growth of new planting. The contribution of the setting to the significance of the listed building is minimal.

Farm buildings west of Gilbert's Spinney (STNo21)

- 4.2.11 Farm buildings west of Gilbert's Spinney (STNo21), consist of three single-storey ranges of brick stables around a courtyard which is open on one side, probably early 19th century but with many modern alterations and additions and almost entirely refurbished in recent times. A similar arrangement of buildings is shown on the 1887 OS map, as well as the 1843 Tithe map and the OS Drawings from 1813 prepared for the 1 inch series of maps. The buildings originate with the new park, rather than the historic deer park but they are now within the area of the modern National Agricultural Centre.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.2.12 The setting of the stables was originally in an area of fields with disbursed service buildings which once served the estate. To the east and west of these fields lay the parkland and pleasure gardens. The creation of the National Agricultural Centre with its numerous later 20th century buildings and structures did much to change the setting of the building and setting makes little contribution to its significance.

4.3 Key designated assets within 500m of the land required for construction

Stare Bridge (STNo13)

- 4.3.1 Stare Bridge (STNo13) is an important example of a large medieval bridge in the parkland of Stoneleigh Abbey, located on the eastern edge of Stoneleigh Business Park and to the west of Stareton village. It is mostly late 15th century in origin although it is clear that it is not of one build and such bridges frequently undergo phases of repair and expansion. It is possible that the main body of the bridge may be earlier than supposed and may have been altered and enlarged over a considerable period of time. The long narrow bridge has nine arches over the River Avon and the floodplain to the east. It was built for the community of Stoneleigh Abbey, from red sandstone ashlar, and is approximately 3m (10 ft) wide between plain parapets. The bridge is now disused for traffic, being bypassed by a modern concrete structure to the east.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.2 The bridge is set in an area of parkland to the east with the modern structures of the National Agricultural Centre to the west being largely hidden by planting. The setting of the bridge has been essentially unchanged for several centuries and this makes a positive contribution to its significance.

Stoneleigh Conservation Area (STNo23)

- 4.3.3 The southern part of the conservation area with seven listed buildings, lies within the study area. The buildings themselves are mostly post-medieval timber-frame and brick domestic dwellings. Many of these are quite substantial houses and represent a prosperous period in the village's history, whilst others may be estate cottages originally belonging to the abbey estate.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.4 The setting of the part of the conservation area within the study area is a village edge which is rich in both historic buildings and boundaries, looking out over farmland and

the river valley. The setting makes a strong contribution to the significance of the conservation area and several key views from the village look out to the surrounding fields. Kenilworth Road Conservation Area (STNo46).

- 4.3.5 Kenilworth Road Conservation Area (STNo46) is a large area of detached houses set in woodland and was created from c. 1920 onwards. It has a number of sizable houses including a number of inter-war houses and some good examples of modernist architecture including South Winds, a Grade II listed house of 1960s origin. Many of the houses are, however, of little heritage or design significance and may be considered generic.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.6 Much of the conservation area is essentially inward looking and there are few key views out from the area itself. The main road, however, provides the axis of the area and this looks outwards down the hill towards Kenilworth. In this part of the conservation area, the setting makes a strong contribution to the significance of the asset.

Stonehouse Farmhouse (STNo07)

- 4.3.7 Stonehouse Farmhouse (STNo07) was designed by Francis Smith of Warwick for Lord Leigh and built in 1716. Smith also designed the great West wing of Stoneleigh Abbey for Lord Leigh in the same period. It is a sandstone ashlar house with moulded eaves cornice and quoins at angles. The house includes two storeys and attic, with a five window facade to east.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.8 The house is partially screened by some trees in proximity, but has largely open views. The house is situated within the estate it served and the setting makes a strong contribution to the significance of the asset.

Dale House Farmhouse (STNo42)

- 4.3.9 Dale House Farmhouse (STNo42) is a late 18th century red brick house on sandstone foundations. It has a steeply pitched plain tile roof with gabled ends, a brick modillion eaves cornice, and a string band between ground and first floors. It is two-storey with an attic. There are a number of outbuildings of a broadly similar date.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.10 This farmhouse has some more recent buildings nearby but retains much of its rural character and setting and this makes a positive contribution to its significance.

Mary Lodge, Kennel Keepers House and Kennels House Stoneleigh Park (STNo20)

- 4.3.11 Kennel Keeper's House a red brick house probably dating from the 18th century Steeply pitched plain tile roof with hipped ends.
- 4.3.12 Kennels house is a single storey (plus attic), square-plan 18th-century red brick cottage on sandstone plinth with steeply pitched plain tile roof with hipped ends. The listing includes a low red brick boundary wall to the north with stone copings to the exercise area.

- 4.3.13 The single storey Mary lodge is constructed in a neo-Tudor style with a steeply pitched patterned roof with stone coped gable ends and a low parapet. There are cross windows with moulded hoods over. It has a cross shaped plan with four gabled ends and a central stack. The roof is slate covered and there is a secondary extension to the east.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.14 These buildings form part of the wider estate of the abbey and were set in amongst the farmland which sat between the larger east and west bodies of parkland. The buildings would once have been more isolated but the creation of the National Agricultural Centre in the 20th century changed much of their setting, as did the addition of nearby housing and associated gardens and infrastructure. It is possible, however to still get a sense of their historic setting and character. The setting makes a marginal contribution to the significance of the buildings.

South Hurst Farm and cottages (STNo63)

- 4.3.15 This is a Grade II listed c. 17th century timber-framed range of three cottages and stable, with red brick infill panels c82m north-east of South Hurst Farmhouse). It has a steeply pitched plain tile roofs with gabled ends and hipped at western end. It is 'T-shaped' in plan with two-storey cross-wing at eastern end, with one-storey and attic range at right angles with lower one-storey and attic cottage and stable at west. Also included is undesignated (but potentially curtilage listed) South Hurst to the south of the cottages. This is a one and a half storey red brick house with numerous extensions and rear wings and ancillary buildings.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.16 South Hurst faces directly to the south-east and sits within a landscape of fields and hedges which contributes strongly to the significance of the asset.

Grade II listed buildings in Stareton (STNo10)

- 4.3.17 There are number of Grade II listed buildings are in Stareton (STNo10).
- 4.3.18 Yew Tree Cottage is a two-bay, two-storey timber framed building which was encased in brick in the 19th century, the framing suggests a probable 17th-century origin. The house has been extended in the 20th century with a cross wing. Timber framing is visible in the west gable.
- 4.3.19 Number 4 and 5, Stareton village is a timber-framed, three-bay cottage with red brick infill panels, was originally built as a single cottage, rather than a range of cottages, and that it must post-date 1710. The south-eastern bay is slightly lower than the rest of the building and it may be secondary addition, albeit an early one, constructed relatively soon after the main building was erected. There is a rear lean-to range of probable 19th-century date when the house was converted to cottages.
- 4.3.20 Numbers 1 and 2, Stareton village is a two-bay, timber-framed, lobby-entry cottage was probably constructed in c. 1680 (replacing a previous building) and encased in brick in c. 1770. Timber framing remains visible in the rear (north) wall.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.21 The rural setting of the buildings along the road and looking out to the rear over open farmland contribute strongly to their significance.

Crabmill Farm (STNo87)

- 4.3.22 This is a late 16th century or early 17th century timber-frame, whitewashed brick, building with tiled roof with four hipped dormers. Single-storey and attics, modern flush lattice casement windows.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.23 This farm now sits in an area which has a number of modern houses along the lane and is almost suburban in character. It does however (particularly to the north) retain some of its rural character; which makes a minor contribution to the significance of the farm.

Arnolds Farm (STNo80)

- 4.3.24 Arnolds Farm (STNo80) is a grade II Listed farmhouse dating from the late 17th or early 18th century and used brick with plain tile roof, hipped to front, and triple gables to the rear.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.25 The asset now set in an area of 20th century housing which makes little contribution to the significance of the farm.

Long Meadow Farm, Burton Green (STNo75)

- 4.3.26 This is a grade II Listed 17th and 18th century building, recently altered and enlarged. The building is constructed of whitewashed brick with tile roofs.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.27 The farm sits to the south-west of Burton Green in an area of small paddocks, and fields. Despite the presence of nearby suburban development, it retains much of its rural character and this makes a positive contribution to its significance.

Cryfield Grange (STNo55)

- 4.3.28 Cryfield Grange (STNo55), an attractive farm was built around a c. 16th century nucleus, partly rebuilt on its original foundations in the early 19th century. It has an irregular 'L-shaped' range of two storeys with steeply pitched plain tile roofs with gabled ends. On the western side of northern arm a length of original red sandstone ashlar splayed plinth is visible. Under the north end of this wing is a slightly arched vaulted cellar of possibly mid 16th century date with two blocked openings on the western side. The north wing is of 19th century red brick with segmental arched window openings and mostly modern fenestration.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.29 The farm looks out from an elevated position over the valley with its fields below and its setting makes a strong contribution to its significance.

5 Historic map regression

- 5.1.1 The analysis of the cartographic evidence for the study area has been integrated within the archaeological and historical baseline narrative (Sections 3 and 4 above).

6 Historic landscape

6.1 Historic landscape characterisation

- 6.1.1 The analysis of the cartographic evidence for the study area has been integrated within the archaeological and historical baseline narrative (Sections 3 and 4 above).
- 6.1.2 The historic landscape character (HLC) of this CFA is complex and demonstrates considerable time-depth. Most prominent within the landscape is Stoneleigh Park, listed on the register of parks & gardens of significance in England. This site, which includes several listed buildings relating to the 18th century manor house as well as the medieval Cistercian monastery of Stoneleigh Abbey, contains a number of notable landscape features. These include the Humphry Repton-designed landscape gardens, groves and woodlands – mentioned in the works of Jane Austen, whose relatives owned the property – and a 17th century deer park. All of these were bisected in the mid-20th century by the creation of the National Agricultural Centre.
- 6.1.3 The historic landscape of the study area is described below three themes: the medieval monastic landscape, the post-medieval park and designed landscape; and the Imperial extractive landscape.
- 6.1.4 The oldest part of the Stoneleigh Parish landscape is associated with the 12th century Cistercian abbey at Stoneleigh. The abbey began as a band of hermits in Staffordshire that quickly grew to a Cistercian monastery in Radmore. The monastery moved first to Warwickshire and then to the current location of the abbey ruins in the 12th century³¹. An archaeological site near to Cryfield House Farm may have been the original Warwickshire site of the abbey. Landscape features close to the existing abbey structures include Home Grange farm, fishponds, woodland (Echill's Wood, now present only in the place-name of part of the National Agricultural Centre), and at least one mill. However, the influence of Stoneleigh Abbey extends well beyond the grounds included in the HER listing report, or the register of historic parks and gardens. The Cistercian focus on manual labour as a key part of devotion led to the development of monastic granges – farms in which the monks or lay brothers laboured to produce what the abbey needed.
- 6.1.5 The Cistercians were also known for their sheep farming and their role in the wool trade. Many of the granges originally intended for purely agricultural use to supply food to the abbey eventually turned into smaller settlements focusing on the raising of sheep for market. The area to the north and west of Stoneleigh Abbey contains numerous granges originally created to provide for the monks at Stoneleigh: Ashow, Bericote, Stoneleigh, Cryfield, Millburn, Helenhill, Kingshill, Finham, Finbury and Bockendon granges are all associated with Stoneleigh Abbey,. These also still remain as features in the landscape, though often only as single farmsteads retaining their grange status only in name. Landscape features such as the mill dam banks at Cryfield Grange farm, are reminders of the influence of Stoneleigh Abbey over the surrounding landscape. The current shape of Crackley Wood, when seen in light of the nearby fields characterised as planned woodland clearances may be the result of the assarting

³¹ VCH, 1951.

of Crackley Wood; Crackley Wood being identified as a common wood held by Stoneleigh Abbey when assarting was noted in 1279. Additional assarts from woodland and common by Stoneleigh Abbey occurred at Hurst, Bockendon and 'the Dalle' (possibly what is now known as Dalehouse Farm)³². Though not confirmed as relating to Stoneleigh Abbey, the area near Stoney Moor Wood exhibits the same pattern of assarting and planned woodland clearance. Earthworks at Crackley, Cryfield Grange and Bockendon Grange are evidence of the shrinking of these settlements from substantial granges to single farmsteads scattered throughout the landscape.

Figure 1: Granges associated with Stoneleigh Abbey



- 6.1.6 Following the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII, the lands of Stoneleigh Abbey were granted to the Duke of Suffolk, who sold them to William Cavendish, who, in 1561 sold it to Thomas Leigh. The Leighs were later ennobled, and the estate remained in the Leigh family until 1996³³. It is unknown if the deer park part of the estate was created before or after the Dissolution. However, by the time of the 1597 estate map, the area to the north and west of the medieval abbey had been transformed into a deer park. Not long after, in 1616, Thomas Leigh was given licence to empark 700 acres (283 Ha) and his son was licensed to empark an additional 80 acres (32 Ha) in 1640. A new manor house was built within the grounds in 1561, and other improvements continued into the 17th century, including the duck decoy at the centre of Decoy Spinney. Hunting, and not only of deer, was clearly important within the Stoneleigh landscape. Spinneys surround the area: Cotton Mill and Ticknell (STN114) to the south, along with the aforementioned Decoy Spinney (STNoog) and adjacent Brick Kiln Spinney. Near to the Decoy and Brick Kiln spinneys, and close to

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

the location of the historic Stoneleigh kennels is an area called Hares Parlour, indicating the diverse nature and purpose of hunting. These are not the only spinneys: Black Spinney, Gilbert's Spinney, Motslow Hill Spinney (STN029), Victoria Spinney, Ticknell Spinney, Cotton Mill Spinney and Glasshouse Spinney all add to the overall perception of 18th century Stoneleigh as a landscape of leisure and gentry, with hunting as a key activity.

- 6.1.7 Landscape improvements were also made closer to the house, in much grander scale. The renovations that most influenced the current landscape of the manor house at the abbey were begun in 1711. This is when Edward, the 3rd Lord Leigh, began massive extensions to the property. Most significantly to the landscape, it was in the early 1800s that Lord Leigh brought in Humphrey Repton to design gardens for the house. The formal gardens were created and additional planting took place throughout the estate. It is because of the landscape features from this period that the abbey is included on the register of historic parks and gardens (though other historic features are included in the listing). The formal gardens remain as a feature of the manor house and a number of other garden features survive, but the overall legibility of the original demesne lands of Stoneleigh Abbey has been severely compromised by the mid-20th century development of the National Agricultural Centre, effectively bisecting the Stoneleigh Abbey and park grounds. The historic landscape of the park is also obscured by its re-design into its current state as a golf course.
- 6.1.8 The 18th century landscape of Stoneleigh Abbey and park may be obscured by modern development, but much of the landscape continues in popular imagination. This stems mainly from the association of Stoneleigh Abbey and park with Jane Austen. Austen was niece to Lord Leigh, and spent time at Stoneleigh Abbey. The Abbey and park grounds were likely the inspiration for the settings of *Mansfield Park* and *Northanger Abbey*. *Mansfield Park* specifically references Humphry Repton in discussions about the potential improvements that could be made to Sotherton Court. Repton's landscape design philosophy features strongly (though not always favourable) in Austen's works and the clear connection between Austen and Repton is embodied at Stoneleigh Abbey³⁴. The result may be a strong public, possibly idealised perception, the historic landscape around Stoneleigh Park and Abbey. Aside from the designed gardens, the 18th century was also a time of landscape change due to increased industry, and the landscape around Stoneleigh Abbey is no exception. Numerous quarries, marl pits, coal pits, and brick kilns are scattered through the Stoneleigh landscape, attesting to the importance of the area in supplying the raw materials needed for the agricultural and industrial revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries. Some of the gravel pits were noted on maps as early as 1597, but others are considerably more recent, not showing up until 19th and 20th century OS maps. Many have been recorded within the HER, and their presence speaks to the time depth of the productive quality of the landscape.
- 6.1.9 At Crackley assarted woodland (STN106), there is a narrow area of old landscape, surrounded mostly by large and very large post-war fields. The landscape asset consists of fields and woodlands showing characteristics of woodland clearance and assarting, much of which may be of relatively early date. The fieldscape characteristics

³⁴ Gay, P. (1989), *A Changing View: Jane Austen's Landscape*. *Sydney Studies in English*. 15, 47-62.

of the land north of Dalehouse Lane and south of Bockendon Grange Farm represent clearances from woodlands which may have once connected Crackley, Rough Knowles and Broadwells woods, and perhaps further south to Stoneleigh Abbey. The area, however, represents a still legible landscape of early enclosures. Archaeological evidence, including extant ridge-and-furrow in the area, indicates that the clearance were fairly early in date. The Victoria County History (VCH) refers to documentary evidence of assarting by the monks at Stoneleigh Abbey near Hurst from as early as 1176. "In 1279 the abbot was said to have three common woods, 'Dalle' [? near Dale House], Westwood, and 'Crattele' [Crackley], containing 1,000 acres of wood and waste"³⁵. This area, therefore, may represent not only a well-preserved section of assarted woodland, but also an important part of a larger landscape related to the Cistercian establishment at Stoneleigh.

- 6.1.10 It is therefore evident that the landscape within the Stoneleigh, Kenilworth and Barton Green study area consists of the monastic landscape of the Middle Ages, the landscape of pleasure, leisure and gentility of the early 18th century, the industrial landscape of the same period, and the literary landscape associated with Jane Austen.

6.2 Historic parks and gardens

- 6.2.1 There is one Grade II* registered park within 2km of the land required for construction at Stoneleigh, comprising 18th and 19th century gardens and parkland around Stoneleigh House. The gardens and new park lie to the south and west of the route which will pass through the Royal Agricultural Society showground. The deer park, to the north-east of Stoneleigh Abbey and showground, consists of parkland and agricultural land and no undesignated parks and gardens of local historical significance. Bockendon Grange is an undesignated possible garden feature earthwork next to the farmhouse (STNo88)/

6.3 Important hedgerows

- 6.3.1 One hedgerow within the CFA meets criteria for protection as a historic hedgerow under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997. A hedgerow following the line of the parish boundary to the north-west of Crackley meets Criteria 1 of the Regulations. The boundary is between Stoneleigh and West Wood parishes and the result of the creation of West Wood parish out of Stoneleigh parish in 1846. As the Hedgerows Regulations specify the year 1850 as a cut-off for historic parishes, this hedgerow meets Criteria 1 of the Regulations. However, it is not in the same category as the ancient parish boundaries.
- 6.3.2 Two hedgerows have been identified within this CFA warranting additional investigations. The first along the alignment of the listed Stare Bridge, may be considered a part of that structure's setting or may have remains of the bridge incorporated into the structure of the hedge. The other follows the boundary of the parish, as well as the boundary of a Natural England defined ancient woodland (Broadwells Wood).

³⁵ VCH, 1951.

7 Archaeological character

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 To determine the archaeological potential for the study area, it was sub-divided into archaeological character areas (ACA). These ACAs are derived from a consideration of the current topography, geology and current land use of the area. From these factors the potential for recovery of archaeological remains is considered.
- 7.1.2 From these broad character areas, the landscape was further subdivided into archaeological sub-zones (ASZ), which have allowed for a more in-depth understanding of the archaeological potential of the CFA. The study area for the CFA has been sub-divided into 10 ASZ. Although initially defined and characterised by current land use, a number of additional factors have determined the potential of these sub-zones to contain archaeological remains of significance. These factors include topography, geology, historic character and distribution of known archaeological finds, sites and assets.

7.2 Character areas

- 7.2.1 The ACAs described below extend from south to north within the study area.

ACA 1: Dunsmore

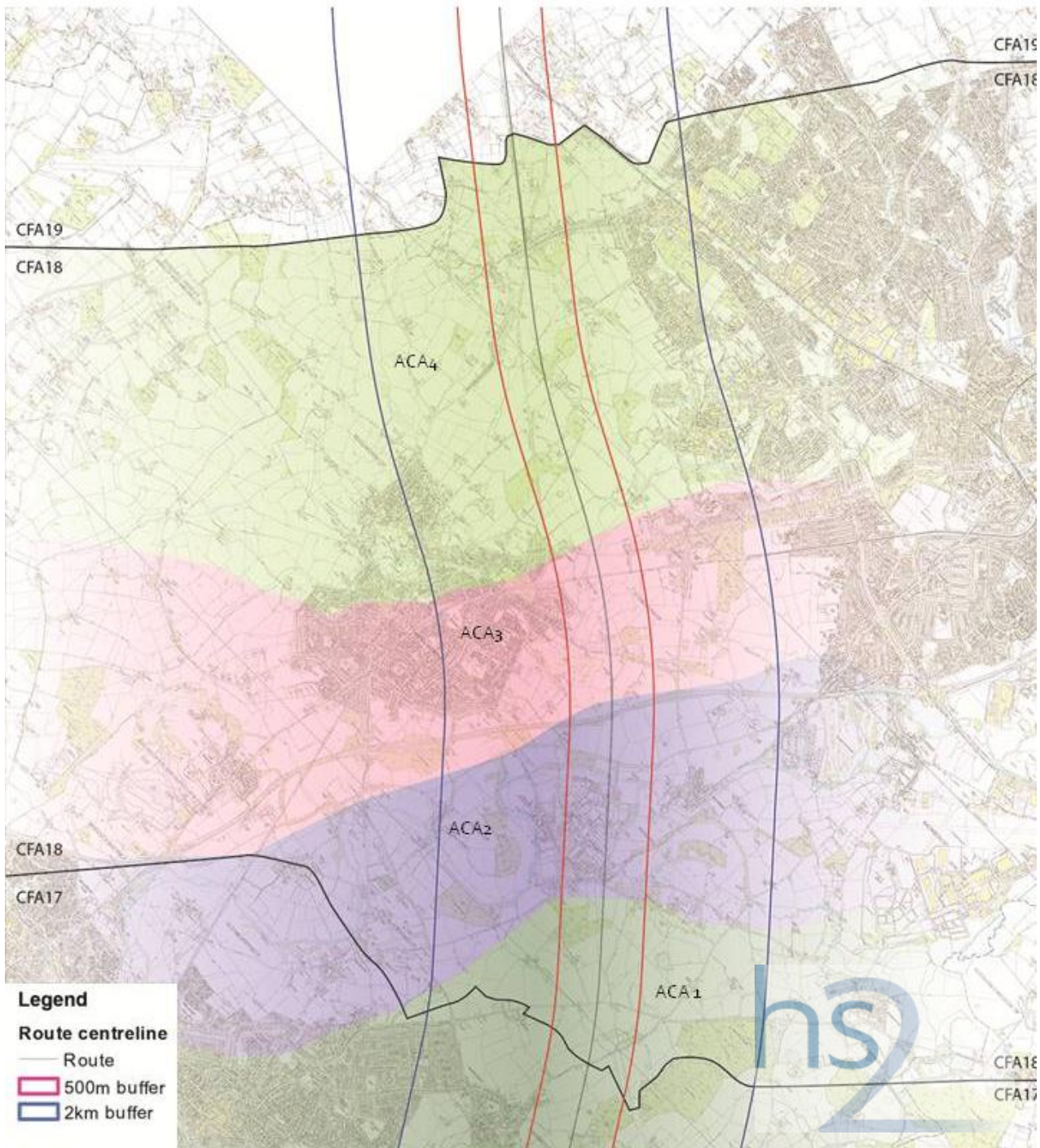
- 7.2.2 Dunsmore is centred on an area of former heathland associated with a low plateau of glacial deposits. These deposits have led to the creation of poor quality thin soils which were worked in the prehistoric period, rapidly creating the heathlands which dominated the area until improvements in agriculture led to these areas being reclaimed for agriculture over the past two centuries. Like the Feldon area to the south, this is predominantly a planned landscape of large fields and small villages although unlike the Feldon it also has extensive woodlands. The area is primarily agricultural with extensive pasture and arable fields, many established over former areas of common land and heath, forming a flat, open landscape. The area within the study area is crossed by the narrow valley of the River Avon. This valley is mainly infilled with alluvial deposits from past flooding episodes although isolated areas of gravel terrace also occur. The arable fields often extend up to the river although there are also some surviving sections of remnant flood meadows. Much of the region was cleared of woodland and settled in prehistory especially on the easily worked soils of the main plateau and along the fertile river valleys. The higher areas appear to have been worked to exhaustion by the Anglo-Saxon period. The productive land was densely settled by the later medieval period and farmed in two and three field systems. Depopulation of the area continued slowly through the later medieval period with the land enclosed in the 18th and 19th centuries.

ACA 2: Avon Valley

- 7.2.3 The River Avon crosses the study area to the south east of Kenilworth. It is located within a narrow, steep-sided valley that has been cut through the thin glacial soils of the Arden. It has substantial gravel terraces on either side of its course which have proved attractive locations for agriculture and sparse settlements from the prehistoric period onwards. The floodplain has also been developed with watermills established

at various points along its course. Within the study area the main site within the valley is Stoneleigh Abbey which dominated the medieval economy of the area. The landscape on either side of the valley is dominated by former medieval managed woods and deer park enclosures.

Figure 2: Archaeological Character Areas



ACA 3: Finham Brook Valley

7.2.4

Finham Brook is a tributary of the River Stowe and is located immediately to the north west of the Avon Valley within the study area. The valley has a steep south east side and a gradual sloping northwest side, giving it an asymmetrical profile. The underlying geology is the Mercia Mudstone group which has led to the formation of thin soils

which had been worked out in the prehistoric period, leading to the formation of heathlands and later large areas of managed woodland in the medieval period. Some patches of this woodland still survive while much of the heathland has been reclaimed in the past two centuries and turned into pasture for livestock. Some of the surviving medieval woodland contains undated earthworks which may be related to former deer parks or which may relate to earlier settlement within the valley.

ACA 4: Arden

- 7.2.5 The Arden, which occupies the northernmost two thirds of the study area, is a well-wooded farmland landscape covered with a pattern of small fields and dispersed isolated settlements. At the core of the area is a landscape of low rounded hills, steep scarps and small incised valleys. The section of the Arden crossed by the study area includes the River Avon and a small tributary known as the Finham Brook. These valleys have abundant tree and woodland cover, creating an enclosed landscape with sunken lanes and scattered farms and settlements. The ancient character of the landscape is emphasised by the presence of many moated sites and former deer parks. The area is located mostly on mudstone formations which has created the rolling nature of the landscape which is cut by the river valleys. There are Arden sandstone outcrops amongst this mudstone which form prominent escarpments. The soils are heavy and clay based which, when cleared of woodland, led to the development of pasture and wood pasture agriculture. The woodlands were probably cleared after the Anglo-Saxon period and in some places as late as the 11th century. Many of the deer parks were established in the 12th and 14th centuries with emparkment continuing up to the 15th century. The remnants of many such parks survive to this day. This medieval parkland is particularly noticeable around Stoneleigh Abbey within the study area. The early woodland clearances led to small hedged enclosures being farmed which created a character of small irregular fields. This continued to characterise the area until widespread enclosure of the land in the 18th and 19th centuries.

7.3 Archaeological sub-zones

- 7.3.1 The ASZs are presented in Table 1 from south to north. An indication of archaeological potential for each sub-zone is provided.

Table 1: Archaeological sub-zones

No.	Name	Topography	Geology/Soils	Modern Land Use	Historic Landscape Character	Archaeology
1	Bytham River	Mostly flat or gently rising open fieldscape	River gravels	Agricultural	Agricultural	The sub-zone also contains a number of surviving medieval ridge and furrow systems which may be masking earlier features and therefore may require further investigation to further inform the EIA. This palaeochannel is known to contain a site of possible international importance at Waverly Wood, just to the north of the study area. Therefore there is the potential for discoveries of a similar antiquity and importance to be made within the palaeochannel as it crosses the study area.
2	Upper SE slopes of Avon Valley	Valley with grazing land	The underlying bedrock geology is made up of Bromsgrove Sandstone and Ashow Mudstone deposits.	Agricultural	Agricultural	These deposits have good archaeological potential for pre-medieval settlement.
3	Upper slopes of the Avon Valley	Valley with grazing land	Terrace gravels	Agricultural	Agricultural	These deposits have good archaeological potential for pre-medieval settlement
4	Modern reservoir	Reservoir	Disturbed	Agricultural	Agricultural	N/A
5	River Avon first terrace south	Valley with grazing land	Ashow mudstone	Agricultural Centre	Parkland/ agricultural	This terrace has been used as the site of medieval Stoneleigh Abbey and in the 20 th century as the site of the National Agricultural Centre. Well-drained and has good archaeological potential for pre-medieval settlement.
6	Stoneleigh Abbey floodplain	Floodplain	Underlying mudstone geology	Parkland	Parkland/ agricultural	The terrace is well-drained and has good archaeological potential for pre-medieval settlement. The floodplain is located on alluvium deposits which have been deposited over many episodes of localised flooding and which may seal archaeological features and deposits which predate these episodes.
7	River Avon floodplain	Floodplain	The floodplain is located on alluvium deposits	Agricultural	Agricultural	Alluvium deposits have been deposited over many episodes of localised flooding and which may seal archaeological features and deposits which predate these episodes.
8	River Avon first terrace	Valley with grazing land	This area is underlain wholly by river gravel deposits	Agricultural	Agricultural	The river gravel deposits have good archaeological potential for pre-medieval settlement.

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No.	Name	Topography	Geology/Soils	Modern Land Use	Historic Landscape Character	Archaeology
9	Terrace north east of Avon	Valley with grazing land	Kenilworth Sandstone	Agricultural	Agricultural	Will be of some archaeological potential due its proximity to the water, although the topography will have probably deterred settlement in the pre-medieval periods.
10	North west Avon slopes	Very steep slope	located on Kenilworth Sandstone that has been cut into by the river, forming this steep slope	Agricultural	Agricultural	Will be of some archaeological potential due its proximity to the water, although the topography will have probably deterred settlement in the pre-medieval periods.
11	Upper Avon Valley	Gentle slopes down to stream valley	The underlying geology is a mixture of Mudstone, Sandstone and gravels which has produced light well drained soils	Agricultural	Agricultural	A number of Roman sites have been recorded in the south west of the sub-zone. Light well-drained soils which have good archaeological potential for pre-medieval settlement.
12	Finham Brook north west slope	Gentle slopes down to stream valley	The underlying geology in this sub-zone is formed from a mixture of Mudstone and Sandstone deposits which have produced light well drained soils	Agricultural	Agricultural	Light well-drained soils which have good archaeological potential for pre-medieval settlement.
13	Finham Brook floodplain	Flat floodplain	The floodplain is located on alluvium deposits which have been deposited over many episodes of localised flooding	Agricultural	Agricultural	The alluvium deposits have been deposited over many episodes of localised flooding and may seal archaeological features and deposits which predate these episodes.
14	Milburn and Dalehouse	Low valleys with deeper stream cuttings	The underlying geology is made up mainly of Sandstone deposits which have produced light well drained soils	Agricultural	Agricultural	Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks have been recorded within the sub-zone along with medieval settlement cores at Milburn Grange and Dalehouse Farm as well as the site of a former watermill at Dalehouse Farm. Light well-drained soils which have good archaeological potential for pre-medieval settlement.
15	Finham Brook (west)	Gentle slopes down to stream valley	The underlying geology is made up mainly of Sandstone deposits which have produced light well drained soils	Agricultural	Agricultural	Light well-drained soils which have good archaeological potential for pre-medieval settlement.
16	Finham Brook (north east)	Gentle slopes down to stream valley	Sandstone deposits which have produced light well drained soils	Agricultural	Agricultural	Light well-drained soils which have good archaeological potential for pre-medieval settlement.

No.	Name	Topography	Geology/Soils	Modern Land Use	Historic Landscape Character	Archaeology
17	Finham Brook (north west)	Gentle slopes down to stream valley	The underlying geology is one of Sandstone deposits which have produced light well drained soils	Agricultural	Agricultural	Light well-drained soils which have good archaeological potential for pre-medieval settlement.
18	West of Finham Brook Valley	Gently rising hills	Sandstone and marl formations that leads away north westwards from the Finham Brook valley as far as a localised plateau of chalky bolder clay at Burton Green	Agricultural, grazing land	Agricultural	Medieval grange site has been recorded at Bockendon Farm (STNo67), while medieval and then post-medieval shrunken settlements exist at South Hurst Farm (STNo62). A number of surviving medieval ridge and furrow systems of earthworks have also been recorded across the sub-zone
19	Burton Green (north west)	Largely flat open fields	Chalky boulder clay, poor quality chalky soils.	Agricultural, grazing land	Agricultural	The area contains one possible medieval settlement site in the form of a series of potential houses platforms and associated earthworks, together with two areas of possible ridge and furrow agriculture.

8 Analysis and research potential

8.1 Analysis of understanding

- 8.1.1 Overall, taking into account the archaeological importance of the sequences recorded at the Waverley Wood sites, Sub-zone 1 has high potential to preserve nationally important Lower Palaeolithic archaeological remains associated with the pre-Anglian Bytham River. If preserved, these remains are likely to be closer to the current ground surface where the Baginton sand and gravel outcrop, at the northern and southern boundaries. Beneath the Anglian deposits this may reach approximately 6-11.5m below ground level (bgl) or more. At present there is very little direct subsurface data from Sub-zone 1 to be more accurate. There is similar high potential where deposits are mapped in the south eastern part of Sub-zone A301. There is a moderate risk, at a site scale; similar deposits not mapped by the BGS extend into Sub-zone A2. The area of highest archaeological potential is the gravel terraces of the Bytham River. It is clear from current knowledge that human occupation of the region in the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic was discontinuous and that a prime aim of research in the area should be in establishing the chronology, geographical extent and relative intensity of human activity and also in identifying colonisation routes³⁶. Much of the colonisation and habitation appears to have been concentrated along river valleys and the gravel terraces of the Avon valley will therefore be of particular interest to the development of this model. Despite the lack of Upper and Middle Palaeolithic finds in the region as a whole, the discovery of one in-situ site has the potential to transform understanding of these periods at a national level. In this respect the West Midlands has as much potential as any other region in England and the proximity of the Waverley Wood finds to the study area should be highlighted in anticipating possible archaeological issues born out of construction within the land required for construction. The Waverley Wood finds are of both national and international significance in relation to questions concerning the chronology and extent of the earliest human occupation of northern Europe and further work on it is a clear priority. While the site itself lies outside the study area, the potential for further finds, possibly within the land required for construction, is good.
- 8.1.2 Research objectives for the region, as set out by a Prehistoric Society paper³⁷ identified a number of key objectives including the study of environmental change and settlement between 9000BC and 7000BC, the geographical distribution and local adaptations of Mesolithic populations in relation to changes in environment, the large-scale organisation of societies, the nature of settlement and of subsistence societies as well as their lithic technologies.
- 8.1.3 The upper terrace gravels on the south eastern edge of the Avon Valley (Sites 3 and 4) have good potential to contain prehistoric and Romano-British settlement. Further investigations of these sites may provide data on periods that are poorly understood within the West Midlands.

³⁶ Garwood, 2011.

³⁷ Prehistoric Society (1999) *Research Frameworks for the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic of Britain and Ireland*. Prehistoric Society: Salisbury.

- 8.1.4 The sandstone terraces to the north west of the Avon (Site 11) are known to contain some Romano-British settlement evidence as well as evidence for a possible medieval castle site. Further investigations within this Site may reveal further data that may help to characterise and more fully understand both the Roman and medieval periods in this part of Warwickshire.
- 8.1.5 No assets dating from the Middle Palaeolithic to the Late Neolithic period have been recorded within the study area to this time. However, the study area appears to have been largely un-surveyed to this point and there is potential for the proposed development to disturb as yet unrecorded sites and finds from this period. As a result of this confidence in the existing record is low.
- 8.1.6 The Early Neolithic (4000-3400BC) is defined by the first appearance in Britain of domesticated animal and plant species and associated agricultural technologies along with the creation of monuments including long barrows, cursus monuments and causewayed enclosures, as well as ceramics and complex mortuary ritual leading to formal burial. The current research agenda for the Neolithic is therefore quite extensive due to absence of previous synthetic analysis on this period³⁸. It focuses on; the nature of the Neolithic / Mesolithic transition, the significance of agriculture, environmental change, monuments, settlement, material cultural and depositional practices and regional and cultural diversity.
- 8.1.7 The Avon valley is known to contain a number of former barrow sites and it is known that many such barrows have either been ploughed—out by later agricultural activity or sealed below alluvial deposits. The prospect for as yet unrecorded barrow sites surviving as sub-surface features is good. Again, unsystematic and irregular survey work in the region means that confidence in the existing archaeological record of this period is low. Through a number of books over the past 20 years a research agenda for the period can be established³⁹. These themes include; social and cultural change, environmental change and agriculture, monuments, burials, ceremonial landscapes, settlement, material culture and regional and cultural diversity.
- 8.1.8 No sites firmly dated to the Iron Age have been identified by the survey, although the findspot of a scatter of coins at Crackley Wood is crossed by the proposed route. The absence of firmly dated Iron Age sites from the study area should not be taken as a sign of the absence of occupation and so hitherto unrecorded sites may exist. The dating and local character of agricultural land-use in the period is poorly understood due to limited evidence, especially environmental. There is the potential for environmental data from wetland sites, as well as surface scatters on arable fields which may identify additional sites of this period Holocene terraces and palaeochannels in river valleys may provide evidence of past land use and new sites.
- 8.1.9 A cluster of Roman settlements, buildings and field systems have been recorded at Glasshouse Wood and Kenilworth Golf Course on an area of well-drained sandstone just above the River Avon and there may as yet unrecorded archaeological sites on the first terraces of both the River Avon and the Finham Brook in particular. There is an impression that the region is divided in this period between the more settled areas in

³⁸ Garwood, 2011.

³⁹ Garwood, 2011.

the south and east compared to the less well-populated, traditional areas to the north and west of the region. What needs to be established is whether this perceived division actually existed and if so to what extent was it borne out of cultural traditions, land-use geology and natural resources. Finally, as with most parts of Britain, the ending of Roman rule and the change from the Roman period to that of early medieval England is poorly understood.

- 8.1.10 The research agenda for the Roman period covers a number of topics, including resource mobilisation, the assessment of existing evidence, assessing gaps in that evidence and the perceived conflict in the region between innovation and tradition. The West Midlands is a region rich in natural resources, however, how these resources were exploited is poorly understood. There is a good deal of evidence for pottery manufacture in the area but little is known about metal and glass working, the mining, quarrying and salt-working. More also needs to be known about how woodland in the region was exploited and whether the West Midlands was an area where timber was grown and managed and was if it was a resource that was distributed to other regions. The role of the army in the exploitation of resources, particularly in the later Roman period also needs to be addressed. There is also the potential to recover further information on ritual and religion as expressed through burial practices and building design.
- 8.1.11 No early medieval assets have been identified within the study area. The research agenda for this period has a number of priorities, most of which concentrate on the need to reassess existing data⁴⁰. Priorities include the need for evidence of all forms of early medieval rural settlements and field systems with particular attention to sites where Roman and medieval sites are juxtaposed, as well as a focus on areas where environmental evidence can be obtained, such as river valleys. The study area is populated by a number of nucleated medieval sites including moated farmsteads, monastic granges and ridge and furrow field systems as well as the site of Stoneleigh Abbey which dominated the rural economy across much of the study area. Confidence in the archaeological record of this period is high, although previously unrecorded sites are assumed to exist along the route.
- 8.1.12 Knowledge of the post-medieval period within the study area has been gleaned mainly from the written and standing building record. Some fragments of early post-medieval settlement including deserted settlements and bridges survive within the study area, however, with the exception of the Grand Union Canal the area is largely devoid of industrial features. There may be unrecorded post-medieval structures being disturbed by the proposed development.

8.2 Research potential and priorities

- 8.2.1 An archaeological Research Framework for the West Midlands⁴¹ provides an introduction to key themes of research in the region by period. Reflecting the potential of the land required for the Proposed Scheme in this CFA, and drawing on the general themes identified in the published research framework, the following

⁴⁰ Hooke, 2011.

⁴¹ Watt, S., ed. (2011), *The Archaeology of the west midlands: a framework for research*. Oxford: Oxbow Books.

questions could provide the focus for investigation carried out in this study area in terms of period based and multi-period based landscape research:

- can waterlogged deposits within the study area provide evidence of the environment in the prehistoric and Romano-British periods?
- what can artefact concentrations from varying soil types, including the gravels of the Bytham River and the clays of the other areas, tell us about exploitation of the landscape in the prehistoric periods?
- how does soil chemistry in the study area affect the preservation of archaeological remains and how has that influenced our understanding of human activity in the Palaeolithic period?
- is aerial photography a reliable indicator of presence or absence of sites on the geologies of the study area?
- can the gravels of the Bytham River provide evidence of the nature of early prehistoric activity which has, to date, not been identified within the study area
- through the recovery of environmental evidence, can any light be shed on the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in the region and can areas of Mesolithic activity shed light on Early Neolithic activity?
- little is known about the nature of Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age activity in the study area. Were there features such as barrows, henges and settlements of this date which have been ploughed out?
- what was the relationship between the known Roman sites in the centre of the study area with the Fosse Way to the south and the Lunt fort to the north east and did the Roman settlement pattern continue into the Early Medieval period, for which currently there is little evidence in the study area?
- what was the nature of the medieval settlement and buildings which preceded the many post medieval features in the study area?
- what survives of the wider Stoneleigh abbey estate, how did it function, and what was the status of the settlements associated with it?
- how was the river and valley of the Avon exploited? Were there such features as water-meadows, and mills?
- how did the industrial towns in the study area influence the development of the rural areas?

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Berkswell (Undated)Kenilworth 1755

Stoneleigh 1813

Not seen

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Estate maps

Coleburn Farm and Predendal Estate (Undated)

Draft Plan Ashow (Undated)

Collection of Ashow maps (various dates)

Kenilworth (skeleton map) 1628

Manor of Rudsen and part of Kenilworth 1692

R. Chamberlain's Estate 1754 Leigh Estate 1771-82

Leigh Estate 1767

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